



ANNUAL MESSAGE
OF
GOVERNOR SWIFT

TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA,

DELIVERED JANUARY 11, 1864.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In complying with the Constitutional provisions requiring the Governor to "communicate to each session of the Legislature such information touching the state and condition of the country as he may deem expedient" the hand of an afflicting Providence has prevented my devoting the usual time to the treatment of the numerous topics involving the interests of a new and rapidly growing State.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you that our young State has continued, during the past year, to enjoy in full measure, the remarkable prosperity which has characterized the loyal section of this Union, while engaged in the stupendous conflict which has drawn so fearfully upon its resources, and engulfed so much of its precious blood and treasure. Though more than one-fifteenth of our whole population by the census of 1860, has been sent to reinforce the armies of the republic, and several counties have been depopulated by the Indian raid, there is good reason to believe that the numbers thus temporarily withdrawn from the State have been more than made up by immigration and natural increase, and that our population, which, in 1860, numbered 172,922, is now not less than 225,000.

Agriculture, which was the interest most directly assailed by the war, is also the first to enjoy its compensations. Immigration has more than repaired the thinned ranks of our husbandmen, from whom our volunteers in the field were chiefly supplied, and with the introduction and more general use of agricultural machinery, has probably prevented any diminution of the area under cultivation. And it is a wonderful evidence of the latent resources of our soil and

climate, that, in spite of a drouth of unprecedented duration and severity, the year's crop is estimated at about two-thirds of the average. About 4,000,000 bushels of wheat, and half that quantity of corn, oats and potatoes, respectively, are estimated as the product of the year. The higher prices of grain would undoubtedly have made up for the deficiency, if the cause which produced it had not obstructed the navigation of our principal rivers, and thus partially deprived us of our only channels of exportation. The same extraordinary cause has operated injuriously upon the lumbering interests of the State. Seventy-five millions feet of logs cut during the winter of 1862 and 1863, are estimated to be lying in the shrunken streams that traverse our northern forests, awaiting the long delayed rise of water to float them to their destination.

The surveyors of logs for four districts report their operations during the past season as follows:

| | |
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| Logs scaled in the First District, (Stillwater,) | 28,013,746 ft. |
| Logs scaled in the Second District, (St. Anthony,) | 21,634,770 ft. |
| Logs scaled in the Fifth District, (Wabashaw,) | 308,348 ft. |
| Logs scaled in the Seventh District, (Winona,) | 291,601 ft. |

No reports have been received from the remaining districts.

For three-quarters of a century Minnesota has been the seat of a flourishing fur trade, and though the expulsion and removal of two of the Indian tribes from our midst, and the extension of settlement and civilized industry over their ancient hunting grounds, have greatly curtailed the sources of local supply, a considerable trade has of late years sprung up with the Hudson Bay Company's settlements beyond our Northwestern border, the receipts of peltries from all sources during the past year being estimated at \$300,000.

In general, it may be said, that notwithstanding slight checks arising from temporary and accidental causes, and the public burdens and private sorrows which the war inflicts

upon all, at no previous period of our history, has a more prosperous activity pervaded all departments of industry, or have the comforts of life been more generally diffused among all classes of our population.

This general prosperity has given a new impetus to our railroad enterprises, while the failure of navigation in our large rivers has developed a new necessity, and furnished a powerful argument, appreciable by every citizen, for their speedy completion. I am happy to note the satisfactory progress in construction of some of our principal Land Grant lines, notwithstanding the scarcity and high price of labor. The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad is now completed, and the cars are now running from St. Paul to Anoka, a distance of twenty-seven and a half miles, and is graded for thirty-six miles further, while the iron, I am assured, has been purchased to complete the track to Watab, eighty miles from St. Paul, by the first of next August.

The Winona and St. Peter Railroad is completed and in operation from Winona to St. Charles, a distance of twenty-nine miles, comprising all the heavy and very expensive work between the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and is graded for thirty miles farther. The iron is said to have been purchased and preparations made to complete the road to Rochester, a distance of forty-nine miles from Winona, by the fourth of July, 1864.

The Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad has been graded from Mendota to Northfield. An expensive bridge across the Minnesota is in process of construction. Ties, iron and rolling stock are reported to have been purchased, sufficient to equip the road from Minneapolis to its junction with the Winona and St. Peter road at Owatonna, and it is confidently expected that the road will be ready for business from Minneapolis to Faribault by next autumn. Arrangements have also been made which ensure the building at the same time, of a branch from Mendota to St. Paul.

If these enterprises continue to be prosecuted with the vigor which has marked their recent progress, the expectation may be reasonably indulged, that by the middle of next

year the cars will be running continuously from St. Cloud, at the outpost of our North-western settlements, through the heart of the State to Winona, a distance of nearly two hundred and thirty miles, and supplying a reliable and much needed means of communication with Eastern markets.

The main line of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad from Minneapolis Westward, is as yet unimproved. The remaining Land Grant lines continue in the condition in which over three years ago they passed by foreclosure into the hands of the State.

At the last session, the Legislature passed an act making a valuable grant of Swamp lands to aid the St. Paul and Pacific Company in building a branch of their road from St. Paul to Winona, along the Mississippi river. The Company has accepted the grant on the conditions named, has caused the route to be surveyed, and hopes are entertained that its construction will commence next spring.

The Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad Company, to which the State made a similar conditional donation of swamp lands, has recently received an additional inducement to prosecute the work on this road in the pledge of a bonus of \$250,000 by the city of St. Paul, upon the completion of the road, within five years, from St. Paul to the head of Lake Superior. An ordinance of the City Council to that effect has been ratified by a popular vote, and now only awaits the sanction of the Legislature to give it validity.

Leaving the last mentioned road out of view, and excepting the Winona & St. Peter road, all our great projected land grant lines, five in number, traversing the State in as many different directions, with an aggregate length when completed, of over 1,000 miles, and resting on land grants amounting to nearly 4,000,000 acres, have a common centre of convergence near where the Minnesota joins its current to that of the Mississippi, making it the focus of seven great interior transit lines. I venture to direct your attention to this prominent feature of our railroad system, because it

seems to me that sufficient consideration has not been given to the fact, that a single railroad 140 miles long from this focal point (the particular locality is of little importance,) to Lake Superior, would furnish an outlet for our whole system of natural and artificial communications upon lake navigation, at a distance and cost of transit much less, for three quarters of our agricultural area, than by the routes terminating on Lake Michigan.

The immense advantages of such an outlet would be felt to the farthest extremities of our railroad system, through the whole circle of trade and industry, reducing the cost of imported commodities, raising the value of our grain and other products to the standard of Illinois, and virtually placing Minnesota upon the same commercial ground with that State, as respects the cost of transportation from and to the Atlantic seaboard. It would, besides, form a powerful inducement to the early construction of the Minnesota Valley Railroad, the main commercial value of which depends upon a connection with Lake Superior. But its relations to the great plan of Pacific communications marked out by Congress, and now in rapid progress of construction, gives this subject a new importance. By the 14th Section of an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to aid in the construction of a Railroad and Telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the Government the use of the same, for Postal, Military and other purposes," it is provided that whenever a railroad shall be built through Minnesota or Iowa to Sioux City, the Union Pacific Railroad Company are authorized and required to construct a branch line from their road to connect therewith. The building of a railroad from Lake Superior to the Mississippi, and its continuation through the Minnesota Valley to Sioux City, would fulfil the condition precedent, and give the immense commerce which is destined to flow overland between the two oceans, a path to ship navigation a hundred and thirty miles shorter than by any possible route to Lake Michigan. This large reduction of land transit would unquestionably divert a considerable of this trans-continental

traffic from the great central routes through Minnesota and enrich our State with the commerce of two worlds. Thus by a connection with Lake Superior, another powerful inducement is given to the construction of the Minnesota Valley line, not only as an avenue of local trade, but as an intermediate link in the great chain of Pacific and Atlantic communication.

The aid of Congress and the countenance of the Legislature, will undoubtedly be required to complete the work assigned to Minnesota in this continental programme, and I am confident that whatever safe and prudent legislation or moral support in Congress may be required to promote these important objects, will be cheerfully granted. It will be a wonderful witness to the world abroad and to future ages, of the prodigious energies fostered by the free institutions of this great American Republic, if while engaged with one hand in suppressing the mightiest rebellion that ever convulsed a nation, or menaced civilization, it shall push forward this stupenduous project of a Pacific railroad to completion, and erect the grandest monument of peaceful industry upon earth, amid the clangor and havoc of the world's greatest civil war. Let us hope that Minnesota which has sustained so glorious a share in the victories of the battle field, may bear no ignoble part in this enduring and more beneficent conquest of peace.

Within two years new gold fields of surpassing richness have been developed on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in the latitude of Minnesota, which may be reached within six hundred miles of our western boundary. Recent explorations by citizens of this State, under the command of Capt. James L. Fisk, by authority of government, have demonstrated the great superiority of this Minnesota route to the new Eldorado in other respects, scarcely less important than distance; and if it could be made safe from hostile Indians, much of the immense emigration to those mines with the business it creates, would undoubtedly flow through this State. I would therefore, recommend that Congress be memorialized to establish a chain of military

posts, and provide escorts for emigrants over this line, and also for a grant of lands to extend the Winona and St. Peter Railroad, and the St. Paul and Pacific main line to Idaho.

The last Legislature passed an act in accordance with the authority of Congress empowering the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company to use a certain portion of their land grant in building a railroad from St. Cloud to Lake Superior. The Company did not accept the transfer, and the hope of opening a direct communication between the upper Mississippi Valley and Lake Superior is thus postponed. Such an outlet is of great importance to the development of that region, and as it is now the established policy of Congress to use the public lands to promote the settlement and improvement of the country, I would call your attention to the propriety of asking that body for a grant of lands for a railroad from the Upper Mississippi to Lake Superior.

I have dwelt thus at length upon these topics, because I am deeply impressed with the conviction that the future expansion of the population and wealth of this State depends upon the extension of railroads into our rich interior districts. The speedy development of our railroad system will be our strongest and most cordial invitation to the thousands of emigrants who are flocking to our shores from the old world, and if, when peace shall be restored and our armies disbanded, these avenues to market shall be opened from our wild and unoccupied lands, we may reasonably hope that tens of thousands of the brave men whose heroic devotion shall have secured the final triumph of freedom, will sit down to enjoy its fruits with their families in the Free Homesteads which the munificence of our government offers to all who will accept the boon, throughout more than forty millions of acres of our wide and fertile domain.

The extent to which, in spite of the drawbacks of the times, settlements have already been made in our State under the Free Homestead Law, is an encouraging augury of the benefits that will be realized from it under more auspicious circumstances. In response to inquiries upon this subject the

Registers of the Land Offices in five of the districts have furnished me with the following statistics :

| | |
|--|------------------|
| In the Minneapolis Land District, 510 entries have been made under the Homestead Law, covering - - - - - | Acres. 49,291 |
| In the Winnebago City Land District, 1,270 entries have been made, covering - - - | 180,000 |
| In the St. Peter Land District, 1,231 entries have been made, covering - - - | 145,800 |
| In the Taylor s Falls Land District, 100 entries have been made, covering - - - | 13,805 |
| In the St. Cloud Land District, 465 entries have been made, covering - - - | 74,400 |

Total number of entries, 3,576, covering - 463,296

More than half of the entries are estimated to have been made by new comers.

The reports of the various departments afford a gratifying evidence of the industry, fidelity and success, with which the largely increased and complicated business of the several offices has been transacted.

The condition of the Treasury was never more satisfactory than now.

The receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1863, were as follows :

| | |
|--|--------------|
| For State Revenue Fund on property tax, | \$112,959 56 |
| The State Revenue Fund by poll tax, - - - | 12,061 86 |
| For State Interest Fund, - - - - - | 52,149 01 |
| For United States war tax, - - - - - | 26,355 15 |
| For Permanent School Fund, - - - - - | 113,678 50 |
| For General School Fund, - - - - - | 35,379 78 |
| Proceeds of War Loan, authorized by act of September 27, 1862, - - - - - | 101,250 00 |
| From U. S. in partial payment of Sioux War claims, - - - - - | 200,000 00 |
| From miscellaneous sources, - - - - - | 5,475 12 |
| From balance in the Treasury, Dec. 1, 1862, - - - | 36,555 87 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| | \$695,864 85 |
| The total disbursements have been, - - - | 576,539 32 |

Leaving a balance in the Treasury, Dec. 1, 1863, \$119,325 53

The disbursements of this balance under different heads have already been made or provided for, except \$34,720 46 of the United States War Fund, which is now subject to the disposal of the Legislature.

The total expenses of the last year were \$128,441 03
The estimated expenses for the current year are \$107,800 00

While the balance in the Treasury is much larger than at the close of any previous fiscal year, the taxes collected have largely increased, and at the same time there has been a corresponding reduction in the amount of our floating indebtedness. A comparative exhibit of the several years since 1860, under their different heads, is the most flattering tribute which can be paid to the skill and prudence which have marked the administration of State Finances.

| | Balance in Treasury. | Floating Debt. | Taxes Collected. |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1860, | \$ 675 78 | \$ 68,636 55 | \$ 111,918 53 |
| 1861, | 4,729 42 | 66,682 47 | 100,186 83 |
| 1862, | 36,555 87 | 65,190 48 | 133,001 71 |
| 1863, | 119,325 53 | 59,202 42 | 177,170 43 |

When it is remembered that the taxable basis of 1863, was diminished about twenty-five per cent. below that of previous years, or from over thirty-nine millions in 1861, to less than thirty-millions in 1863, the large increase in the amount of taxes received during the past year, and the flourishing condition of the Treasury, are certainly matters of agreeable and hopeful congratulation. Although the temporary contraction of the taxable basis without any corresponding increase in the tax rate, had the good effect of compelling the collection of the delinquent tax, and of largely increasing the receipts from that source, I would nevertheless ask you to consider whether some means cannot be devised to correct the false standard of valuation which has been adopted throughout the State, and which it is notorious, does not by any means represent the actual value of the property assessed. Otherwise the arbitrary reduction of valuations which has been resorted to by differ-

ent counties to diminish their respective shares of the general tax, will compel a corresponding increase in the tax levies, and thus bring upon the State the double odium of an apparent depreciation of its taxable property, and an exorbitant rate of taxation.

I would suggest whether some amendment in the law regulating the equalization of taxes might not be made, so as to allow the State Board of Equalization to correct manifestly erroneous valuations of personal property, which, it is notorious, evades its share of taxation, and throws unjust burdens upon the owners of real estate.

The amount of Treasury scrip outstanding, December 1, 1862, was \$55,918 08; on December 1, 1863, \$45,339 59; showing a reduction of over ten thousand dollars in that portion of our floating indebtedness. The existence of this debt, amounting in all to \$59, 202 42, which consists of the unpaid Treasury warrants issued for the current expenses of the State Government, and the estimated deficiencies for which no appropriation has been made, is a blot upon our financial credit which no efforts should be spared to remove.

For this purpose, the Treasurer suggests the reduction of the interest tax from two mills to one mill on the dollar, and and that the difference be added to the revenue tax.

The shortening of your session would also aid in effecting the object by about \$2,000 per week.

In addition to this, I would recommend more stringent provisions for the collection of the poll tax, which from the failure of town treasurers to comply with the law, has this year produced scarcely more than a third of the amount due from this source.

These measures, while adding nothing to the present aggregate tax rate, will without doubt, furnish ample resources for meeting the present floating debt, and putting an end to the shameful necessity of issuing depreciated scrip for the current expenses of the State Government, and thus taxing the meagre salaries of the State officers to cover the deficit in the Treasury.

Your attention is also respectfully called to the necessity

of providing means for meeting the principal of the eight per cent. State Bonds for the \$250,000 loan which will become due in July, 1867, as well as to the recommendation of the State Auditor in his report, that a Sinking Fund be created for this purpose. And for detailed information in regard to the different funds and the manner of their investment, the estimates of the disbursements for the current year, banks and all the various financial interests of the State, I take pleasure in referring you to the full and satisfactory Annual Reports of the Auditor and Treasurer of State, which will be laid before you.

The Land Department was established by an act of the Legislature in 1862, and its operations has since been chiefly confined to the disposition of the School Lands under the wise and conservative regulations adopted by your predecessors. The wisdom of that policy, which has been ably seconded by the officer having in charge its practical application, has been ably demonstrated by its results.

The first sales of School Lands were made in the fall of 1862, and have been continued the present year with the following results :

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Number of acres of School Lands in the counties in which sales have been had, | - | 350,325.43 |
| Number of acres sold up to date, | - | 90,440.14 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Number of acres remaining unsold in the above counties, | - | 259,895.29 |
| Amount realized from the lands sold, | - | \$552,309 06 |

The average price of the lands sold was \$6 10 per acre. If the residue of the School Lands in the counties where the sales have been had, should sell, as they probably will, at the same rate, the aggregate product would be \$2,137,051, and the whole body of the School Lands at the same rate would produce a permanent fund of about \$16,000,000, which at seven per cent. interest would yield an annual income of \$1,120,000, a sum sufficient to maintain a system

of public schools at the high educational standard of Massachusetts for a population of nearly a million souls. And it may be safely assumed that sales will proceed at this rate as rapidly as the increase of the population shall require an increase of the school fund, for as the growth of population creates a demand for new schools, the value of the school lands will be developed by the same causes, in nearly the same proportion.

The sum realized from the two mill tax for the support of schools, is about \$45,000. This tax might be profitably reduced, as before suggested, in proportion to the income realized from the school fund, and in a few years it may be reasonably hoped, that the revenue derived from this source will be sufficient to entirely obviate the necessity of imposing a school tax.

In this, as in other States, important and interesting questions between the State and the National Government have arisen, a decision of which in favor of the State will greatly enhance the value of this already extensive source of revenue. Of these the most prominent are the controversy regarding school sections on the Winnebago Reservation, the Sioux Half Breed Tract, and the contest now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, as to the validity of the joint resolutions of Congress, of March 3d, 1857, allowing pre-emptions upon school lands by persons settling thereon prior to the survey.

The questions involved in each of these controversies all depend more or less directly upon the construction of the organic act of the Territory of 1849, the State claiming that by virtue of Section 16, of that Act, all school sections within the territorial limits were solemnly set apart and dedicated by Congress to a public charity, and that such dedication operated to deprive Congress of all further power of disposition over them. Probably the prospective benefit to the State resulting from a favorable decision upon these points, may be estimated at several hundred thousand dollars, as the paltry right to select other lands in the uninhabited regions beyond the frontier, in place of the fertile tracts upon the

Winnebago reservation which has long been justly regarded as one of the gardens of the State, or of the valuable sections in the vicinity of our largest cities, towns and villages, many of which have been obtained by pre-emptions of doubtful faith, and sometimes notoriously fraudulent, can but poorly compensate her for the loss she must sustain by an adverse decision.

In this connection, I desire to call your attention to the imperative necessity for some more adequate provision for the protection of the public lands menaced by pre-emptions, than any now existing. For more minute information upon these interesting subjects, I refer you to the reports of the Auditor and Attorney General. It is only necessary to add upon this subject that the most important financial interest of the State is involved in the public lands, and no subject is more worthy, or more imperatively demands the thoughtful consideration of the Legislature.

It is greatly to be regretted that the sagacious policy which has been observed in the disposition of the school lands, had not controlled the management of the University reserves. To devise and adopt some plan by which this munificent endowment can be extricated from its embarrassments, and saved to the grand cause for which it was designed, is a subject worthy of your most profound contemplation, and demanding the exercise of your best financial ability. Whether the State is, or is not, liable for that portion of the debts of the University created by Legislative authority, it is a matter for your consideration, whether it would not be a measure of sound and honorable policy for it to provide for their payment by an arrangement with the creditors which shall place the University lands in the hands of the State, free from encumbrance. These lands amount to 46,080 acres, selected in choice localities, and may be presumed to be far more valuable than the school lands, about which no choice can be exercised. Yet at the average price at which the latter have been sold, they would be worth \$281,088, a sum sufficient not only to pay the debt which now hangs like an incubus upon this noble foundation,

but constitute an ample fund for the support of the institution for years to come.

Coinciding fully in the opinion, that by the 5th Section of the Enabling Act of Congress, passed February 26th, 1857, the Governor of this State is authorized to select seventy-two additional sections of land from the public domain to be set apart for the use and support of a State University, I have appointed an agent to report to me or my successor in office, after proper survey and examination, a description of such lands as he may deem most suitable and valuable for the purpose.

By this course, the right of the State to these lands will be brought up for adjudication, should there be any doubt or hesitation on the part of the general Land Department as to admitting a claim so evidently just. These lands when selected and entered, will, by judicious management create an ample fund for the support of the University, which I confidently trust is destined to outlive all its difficulties, and prove of incalculable value to the youth of the State already waiting to crowd its halls.

I know of no method for relief so beneficial to the University, or so hopeful to its creditors as the transfer of its lands to the supervision of the State Land Department, to be disposed of on principles similar to those which regulate the school land interests.

By placing the University upon a sound financial footing, the Legislature will be enabled to give a practical development to the institution. All the higher interests of education, which comprehend the noblest and most beneficent objects of government, require that the University should be exalted to its proper position at the head of the splendid educational system whose broad foundation rests on our magnificent school reservation.

I submit to your consideration whether the time has not arrived for devoting the fine University building at St. Anthony to the object for which it was designed. In the years which have elapsed since the edifice was erected, the children who were receiving the rudiments of education in our

common schools have passed to an age when a higher training, and riper culture, are necessary to fit them for the vocations of approaching manhood. Every year is swelling this class of young men. A comparatively small expenditure would place within their reach the means of a college education, and fit the choicest spirits of our rising generation for the most exalted positions which duty or ambition may assign them, in working out the destiny and establishing the greatness of our State.

The Normal School at Winona has proved an efficient means of elevating the standard of qualification for the teacher's profession, and thus exercises an important influence in improving the character of our common schools. You can devote your energies and make appropriations of money to no more economical nor loftier purpose than the promotion of popular education, without which all your railroads, your commercial and material prosperity, are of no avail in building up a State. The appropriation necessary for the support of this institution on a liberal scale could not be more profitably expended.

The report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction embraces the first exhibit at all approaching to completeness, of the condition of our Common Schools. Of 1,635 school districts, 1,254 send tolerably full reports, showing that of 65,598 persons between five and twenty-one years of age, 38,231 attended school within the year, while the average daily attendance is 22,271. The value of school houses is \$160,591, and the whole amount reported to have been received for the use of schools is \$110,444.

The Superintendent suggests a variety of modifications of the existing school law, which, as they concur generally with my own views, I recommend to your favorable consideration.

By an act of the last Legislative session \$1,500 was appropriated for the organization and support of a school at Faribault for deaf mutes and blind persons. The Commissioners report that the school was accordingly opened last September, but for mutes alone for want of a sufficient ap-

propriation, in a building hired for the purpose, under the auspices of an experienced gentleman, and with flattering promise of success. The care and education of this unfortunate class of our people, is a sacred trust which this State will never hesitate to accept and discharge, much less abandon after having entered upon the work. The amount asked by the Commissioners for the ensuing year is \$4,100, which seems to me a reasonable estimate, and I recommend the appropriation.

It is hardly creditable to our State that no steps have yet been taken towards establishing an asylum for the indigent Insane, and that we are dependent upon the charity of a neighboring State for the means of providing temporary relief for a limited number of these unfortunates. We are also warned that the only State which gave a favorable response to our application to receive the Insane of this State, will soon have no room in its asylum for our use, so that unless you make some provision for their relief, this afflicted class of our population, demanding your warmest sympathy and tenderest care, will be left to suffer on miserably and hopelessly. It is high time that Minnesota should take some steps dictated by Christian civilization and humanity towards establishing, building up and fostering such asylums and charitable institutions as are the pride and enduring glory of her sister States of this Union.

I ask your favorable consideration of the recommendation of the Auditor of State, that one mill of the tax for school purposes should be transferred to the general revenue fund for the support of the insane, and the blind, and deaf mutes.

I desire here to add my own commendation to the oft-repeated inculcations of my predecessor, whose unceasing devotion to the welfare of the State, and vigilant zeal in establishing and upholding its financial honor and credit, as well as his energetic and successful labors in developing and organizing the patriotism of our people on the breaking out of the war, made his administration an era in our history, and to urge upon the Legislature the policy of reserving the

swamp lands for the support of benevolent institutions, and resist all attempts to squander them on enterprises, which however useful, can always find adequate support in other directions.

The Reports of the Warden and Inspectors of the State Prison give a satisfactory exhibit of the condition, and an assurance of the excellent management of that institution. I feel it my duty to join in the recommendation of the Inspectors for an appropriation sufficient to complete the cells in the new building erected by your authority last summer.

Conspicuous among the harbingers of rejoicings which usher in the new year is the improved condition of our frontier. The tempest of savage violence which seventeen months ago burst over the defenseless settlements of our Western border, has for the present, and it is to be hoped permanently, subsided.

Though the expeditions under Generals Sibley and Salley failed, partly at least from causes beyond their control, to accomplish all the results which were expected from the magnitude of the preparations, or to inflict upon our savage enemies the full punishment which their atrocious crimes deserve, they have by the formidable and imposing armament which, notwithstanding unusual and almost insurmountable natural obstacles pursued them to the banks of the Missouri river, and by the gallant bearing of our troops, who, in the few opportunities afforded them, displayed those qualities of valor which the training of the savage teaches them to fear and respect, at least been taught their inability to resist the power, or escape the sleepless vengeance of the Government, from whose armies they have fled in the vain attempt to elude the consequences of their unprovoked cruelties. Hunger and destitution have followed like avenging angels upon the track of the fugitive assassins to insure the punishment left incomplete by the forces sent out against them. In all probability many of them will perish this winter from cold and starvation, and it should not be forgotten that, under the circumstances, the destruction of large quantities of provisions and clothing upon which they had relied

for their 'winter's support and protection, by the troops under Generals Sibley and Sulley, must be regarded as scarcely less fatal to them, than the more sudden and sanguinary havoc of the sword.

Without the means of replenishing their exhausted supplies of ammunition, it may be presumed that they are in no condition to renew the war in force upon our frontier settlements while our present attitude of defense is maintained. But there can be no complete security for our border population until these bands of murderers are confined within limits rendered impassible by the powerful arm of our Government, or extirpated from the face of the earth.

The vigorous prosecution of hostilities against these Indians, is as indispensable to the safety of our border, as the maintenance of a strong and vigilant defensive guard on the line of outposts now established by the Military Department of this District. Experience has already taught us that the very wretchedness of their condition, supplies them with motives stronger even than the savage lust of revenge, for marauding incursions upon our settlements with a view to plunder and murder. Scarcely had the forces of the expedition under General Sibley been withdrawn from our frontier garrisons, before a small band of Indians, numbering less than a score, led by Little Crow, advanced stealthily into the heart of our settlements, and scattering in different directions, began a series of bold robberies and murders which continued in different localities throughout the summer. Secreting themselves in the woods and grass, their presence was only revealed in the neighborhood they visited by some horrible outrage, which struck more terror by the mystery which enveloped the perpetrators than even the brutal atrocity which marked the deed. The secrecy and swiftness which characterised the movements of this small band, the rapidity with which their blows succeeded each other at points far apart, in a measure revived the panic which had depopulated our Western counties in 1862. The woods and prairies north and south of the Minnesota river seemed alive with the ambushed assassins.

Some of these Indians even made their appearance within six miles of St. Paul. The number of those who fell victims to the Indian raid of 1863, did not exceed twenty.

All efforts of the military force of 2,000 men, which guarded our extended line of frontier were unavailing to prevent these depredations. The prompt and vigorous cooperation of the State authorities was necessary to arrest a second depopulation of our frontier counties. A corps of State scouts was organized to track these savages to their hiding places, and in order to enlist the inhabitants of the menaced district in their extirpation, arms were issued to them, and a reward of twenty-five dollars, afterwards increased to \$200, was offered for every hostile Sioux warrior killed.

These measures (for details of which I beg to refer you to the report of the Adjutant General,) were effectual in clearing the State of hostile Indians. Of the small party of invading Sioux, nine were killed by citizens or soldiers.

Among the first of the Indians who paid the penalty of their atrocities was Little Crow, the leader and master spirit of the Sioux outbreak, who was killed by Nathan Lampson and his son near Hutchinson. I submit to your consideration whether the brave men, who were instrumental in ridding the earth of this monster, and who have been reduced to penury by the Indian raid, are not entitled to some reward commensurate with the service rendered.

It may be hoped that the disastrous result of this incursion will prevent anything of the kind in future. But it would be dangerous and foolhardy, to act upon any such presumption. The fact that several thousand Indians are congregated at points near our western boundary, to whom murder is glory and pillage a necessity, the facilities which in spite of ordinary military precautions the immense extent of our frontier affords for sudden and secret descents upon our settlements, and the incalculable mischief which even one desperate miscreant lurking in the woods and grass can inflict, warn us to omit or relax no preparations which have been found necessary for the protection of the exposed dis-

tricts. The counsels and experience of the able and energetic soldier who is to succeed me, will prove of inestimable service to the State, in providing for the exigencies of the frontier, and to him I gladly remit the subject.

In this connection, I may be permitted to suggest the propriety of building a State Armory. The history of the past two years has demonstrated the necessity, particularly in a border State, of a permanent repository of State arms, and it can hardly be questioned that it would be better economy to erect a building for the purpose, than to continue the extravagant rent we are now paying for an inconvenient and unsafe place, I may here mention that the State Historical Society has offered to convey to the State, for that purpose, the excellent site, and the foundation of the building they once designed erecting near the Capitol, on condition of reserving a room for their own use. The proposition is submitted to your favorable consideration.

During the past year, the people of the South-western part of the State were relieved from a constant source of vexation and anxiety, and an important step was taken to secure the peace and prosperity of that part of the State, by the removal of the Winnebago Indians, who, with the remnant of the Sioux, were taken to new reservations on the Missouri.

The residue of the condemned Sioux were taken in the spring to Rock Island, where these violaters and murderers of our women and children are now being fed and housed, in comfort and safety, by the Government.

In the fall, an important Treaty was concluded by Senator Ramsey, with the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Chippewas, by which the Indian title was extinguished to some 10,000 square miles of Territory, embracing the American valley of the Red River, and leaving but a small, and to white men, worthless fragment of land now owned by Indians in this State. By this Treaty another prolific source of Indian difficulties has been removed. The navigation of the Red River, and the valuable and growing commerce with the Hudson Bay Company settlements, which passes over the ceded lands, have been freed from the obstructions

and dangers arising from the pretensions of these Indians to the ownership of the soil; pretensions which have heretofore led to serious depredations and menaced grave disturbances in the future.

Congress last winter passed an act providing for the partial compensation of the sufferers by the Indian outbreak. The Chairman of the Commission appointed by the President to examine and audit the claims of the sufferers, Hon. Cyrus Aldrich, informs me that the claims presented and filed up to September 1st, numbered 2,940, and amounted to \$2,458,000.

The awards of the commission on claims proved up and audited, amounted to \$1,370,374, of which \$200,000, the sum already appropriated by Congress, has been paid out to some 1,300 sufferers deemed entitled to immediate relief. Although the commission has been indefatigable in its arduous labors, the work is not yet completed, but this statement reveals the extent of the actual depredations committed by the Indians on property alone, though falling far short of exhibiting the indirect suffering and loss occasioned by the outbreak.

That portion of Minnesota which borders on Lake Superior, embracing the counties of Carlton, St. Louis and Lake, abounds in precious ores, and has interests peculiar to itself which deserve the fostering care of the Legislature. Mining companies are operating there with good prospects of success. In the last apportionment, these counties were grouped with Stearns, Morrison, etc., on the Upper Mississippi, to form the Third District, which sends one Senator and three Representatives. The great preponderance of the latter in population, deprives the former of any representation from their own citizens in the Legislature, and their geographical isolation from the rest of the District, prevents their participating intelligently in elections, while the votes they cast are sometimes received at the senior county, too late to be counted. It is a matter of importance to the State, as well as to the population of this locality, that the immediate and peculiar interests of that vast and rich mineral and lumber

region, should be represented in your counsels by some one well and personally acquainted with the local geography, and physical formation and resources of the country.

I submit to you whether any relief can be afforded by your legislation in the premises.

No astronomical observations have ever been taken to determine the latitude and longitude of St. Paul, and its exact geographical position has never been ascertained nor correctly given in published maps.

It is time that a point so interesting to science, concerning the frontier city of the North-west should be established. Colonel J. D. Graham, of the United States Engineer Corps, stationed at Detroit, Michigan, generously offers to visit this city with two assistants, for the purpose of making the observations necessary to obtain the information, upon the payment of their actual traveling expenses, which cannot be charged to the United States. I recommend an appropriation for the purpose.

I deem it not only proper for me, but my duty to recommend that you increase the compensation now allowed by law to your Governor and Commander-in-Chief. The office is one at all times attended with heavy cares and responsibilities, and, in a crisis like this, with much labor. The best talent and the purest integrity will find ample scope for exercise in the faithful discharge of its duties. The present salary, at the time it was fixed, was perhaps sufficient for an incumbent who lived at the capital, and was not compelled to incur the expense of changing his residence, and renting a house in which to dispense fitting hospitalities. In these times, however, it would not be adequate for the support of an ordinary family under like circumstances, much less for one compelled to remove hither from some other portion of the State. The people have already commenced to select this officer outside of the capital district, and at the present prices of rent and rates of living in St. Paul, the salary now paid in State warrants, which he is compelled to dispose of at a discount, is not more than half

sufficient for his support, in the style in which the Chief Magistrate of the State is expected and ought to live.

I do not consider it desirable that the compensation should be so increased as to render it possible for the office to be sought as a means of making money, but most assuredly, the Governor of this State ought not to be compelled to engage a portion of his time in some trade or profession, or draw upon private resources to eke out an insufficient salary, and defray his actual expenses while devoting his time to the service of the State. The people of Minnesota are not parsimonious nor mean; and while they would censure extravagance, they desire you to be liberal and generous, and I do not entertain a doubt that they will sustain your action in so amending the law which establishes the Governor's salary, that the poorest man in the State can afford to accept the office.

It will be evident, also, upon glancing at the comprehensive report of the Adjutant General, showing the many and onerous duties thrown upon that officer, that a salary which would be considered only moderate for the performance of merely clerical labor, is not sufficient to reward the industry and capacity absolutely required of the incumbent of that position now so ably filled. I therefore recommend an increase of his salary, at least during the continuance of our national and frontier troubles.

Under the militia law, forty regimental and battalion districts have been formed, and all have been fully or to a great extent organized. The provisions for enforcing the military law as well as the plan of organization, seem to be in some measure defective, and in order to establish an available force, it may be necessary for the Legislature to make some amendments to the existing statute upon that subject. The honor and safety of the country, as well as the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, demand that the militia should be a force not merely in name but in reality.

The past year has added new lustre to the achievements of

our troops. On nearly every important battle field of the war, their graves are strewn to mark the glorious share of Minnesota in the progressive triumphs of the Union cause. For the special history and statistics of each regiment, and a complete statement of all matters referring to the Military Department of the State, I refer to the report of the Adjutant General.

During the past as in the preceeding year, agents have been sent to visit our sick and wounded soldiers in the various hospitals of the country, and furnish them with such comforts and assistance as they might require.

In June, 1862, my predecessor appointed Robert R. Corson, of Philadelphia, as an agent for the State to visit and minister to the necessities of our Minnesota sick and wounded soldiers in that city, and he continued to render this service until in September, 1863, when he presented his claim for payment. No money having been appropriated for the purpose, and no salary agreed upon, I now refer the claim to your consideration. After the battle of Gettysburg and the wounded of our immortal First were transferred to the hospitals of Philadelphia, the Rev. E. D. Neill, formerly Chaplain of that regiment, and now residing in that city, generously volunteered to look after their wants and comforts, and to disburse all funds, and distribute all articles furnished him by the State or individuals for their use.

Through the Rev. B. F. Crary, who visited the Southern hospitals on behalf of the State, I have engaged N. P. Bennett to act as agent at St. Louis, and G. E. Davenport at Memphis.

I would urgently recommend the extension of a system which, at comparatively trifling expense does so much to assuage the hardships, and bind up the wounds of war, with the gentle ministrations of personal sympathy. The State can testify her gratitude to the brave men who have gone forth to battle under her star, in no form so grateful to the soldier, as by this practical assurance, that he does not languish on his bed of sickness and pain, uncared for, or forgotten. And it is because the State of Minnesota claims it as a sacred privilege, to watch as an ever present

friend over each and all of her ten thousand heroes, through all the dread vicissitudes of camp and battle field, and hospital, and to cherish as her own, the honorable fame that glows in the ashes of her dead, and crowns the brows of her living warriors, that she has selected as her Chief Magistrate one of their own number, a tried and gallant veteran, who is familiar with all their wants and aspirations, and knows how to soften the rugged lot of the soldier, with the kindness and sympathy of the comrade.

In the month of November I obtained by personal application, the consent of the Secretary of War to establish a hospital at Winona, for the invalid soldiers of Minnesota, knowing that the invigorating air of our climate would facilitate their recovery and save many precious and valuable lives to their families and their country. I regret to say that this consent was subsequently reconsidered, upon representations of the Surgeon General that the locality was difficult of access during the winter.

I invite your favorable attention to the suggestion of the Adjutant General that an agent be appointed by the State to collect, free of expense to the claimants, such bounties, arrears of pay, and pensions as may be due to our soldiers or their relatives. The plan has been adopted by other States, and we should be behind none in rendering every aid to those who have suffered for us in this terrible contest.

Though the admirable working of the allotment system, under the superintendence of the State Treasurer, secures to the friends of the soldier at home the pittance which he is able to transmit to them, you will regret to learn from him, that great destitution prevails among the families of our brave men, and I trust that some efficient measures may be devised and adopted for their relief.

I would suggest that Minnesota should follow the example of other States in offering a bounty to her soldiers in the field who have re-enlisted or may re-enlist. It is presumed that State pride will prevent any of our veterans from being "bought with a price" by other States which are able to offer a larger bounty than we can pay, yet the

same pride should induce us to give to our utmost ability, and by so doing as a State, the burden falls more equally upon the people, than when private and local subscriptions and donations are drawn from the liberal and patriotic only.

I call the attention of the Legislature to the Reports of the State Auditor and Attorney General, recommending a contingent fund for the latter office.

The efficient defense of the right of the State in the several courts, and especially with reference to the important interests connected with the public lands, renders this provision indispensable.

A Militia Contingent Fund for the coming year will also be necessary, and I recommend that the sum of \$10,000 as suggested by the Adjutant General, be appropriated for that purpose.

On the second and third of July, the first of the gallant regiments which Minnesota has sent to the field—that regiment which already has the names of twenty battles written upon its standard—took a prominent part in one of the fiercest struggles of the war. Of the 330 men of the First Minnesota who had survived the disasters and triumphs of the Virginia campaigns from Bull Run to Chancellorsville, to plunge again with its shattered ranks and bullet-riddled flag into the vortex of the conflict at Gettysburg, but ninety-two emerged unharmed from the smoke and glorious issue of the struggle. One hundred and seventy-five were wounded and fifty-one more were added to the immortal roll of its dead heroes, to find a sepulchre with over twenty-one hundred other brave men from other States, in the cemetery where they fell.

The Governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew G. Curtin, conceived the noble idea of uniting the States whose sons had fallen in this great battle, in the ownership and guardianship of the ground consecrated by their blood, of gathering here the sacred remains of the dead in lots appropriated to each State, and of commemorating their common glory in a monument inscribed with the names of the fallen. The aggregate expense, it was stipulated, should not exceed \$35,-

000, but the estimates have since increased it to \$63,500, to be divided among the States interested, in the ratio of their representation in Congress. I did not hesitate to accept at once in your behalf, a proposition which insured to the brave dead of Minnesota, a shrine safe from profanation, and mementoes worthy of their fame. The Soldier's National Cemetery of Gettysburg was dedicated with fitting ceremonies, on the 19th of November last.

The share of Minnesota in the common fund as now estimated, will be \$830, for which, confident of your approval of my action in the premises, I ask the necessary appropriation.

Under the able and energetic administration of my predecessor, Minnesota had sent into the field ten Regiments of Infantry numbering 9,053 men, with artillery, cavalry and sharpshooters, comprising 671 men more; in all 9,275 three years men, and a Regiment of 1,218 Mounted Rangers, making 10,943 men, besides a considerable number of recruits for all these organizations.

Since my assumption of office, a new call has been made upon the State for her quota of 300,000 men for the old regiments, fixed at one-fifth of the enrolled men of the first class, under the "Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces." Our debt under that call was about 1,300 men, and to cancel it with as little burden as possible to the people of an exposed frontier State, I proposed to the President to raise a regiment of cavalry to be mustered into the United States service, and to be employed in protecting our border from hostile Indians. My request was granted, and every facility has been rendered by the government to aid in accomplishing the object, that could be desired. The time for raising the regiment, at first limited to the 25th of October, was, together with the time for the draft for the deficiency, extended to the 9th of November, and afterwards, at my urgent solicitation, to the 5th of January, the time fixed by the President in his Proclamation of 17th October, calling for 300,000 more volunteers, for drafting the number that should be lacking of our quota under that call, at that date.

Our 1st Regiment of Mounted Rangers was allowed to be mustered out before the expiration of their term of service, with a view to the enlistment of its members in the new organization. This regiment is now full, and with the recruits obtained for other organizations, our account with the government stands as follows :

| | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| The quota of troops due the Government under all calls since the beginning of the war, | - - | 15,350 |
| Whole number of troops furnished since the beginning of the war, counting three twelve months men equal to one three years man, | - - | 12,516 |

as reported to the Adjutant General's Office, and about 410 not yet so reported, which leaves a deficiency of 2,424, yet to be raised, either by volunteering or draft, in order to furnish our entire quota.

The draft did not take place on the 5th inst., as was anticipated, the postponement being doubtless made with a view to important amendments of the conscription law by Congress before it goes into operation. The reluctance of our people to volunteer into old organizations, and a lingering fear in our sparsely settled country, so lately the scene of horrid outrages by the foe behind us, that they may be needed to protect their own hearthstones, may prevent the enlisting of a sufficient number to avoid the draft, though the increasing energy and activity manifested by the towns in efforts to raise their quotas, give flattering promise that now, as heretofore, Minnesota will voluntarily honor all calls upon her patriotism and devotion to the Union.

I may here say, that in view of the probability that the draft would take place, and in accordance with representations made to the War Department, the system of drafting has been so far modified in this State as to remedy a gross injustice in the original method of apportioning quotas, by conceding to those townships whose patriotic alacrity and liberality in responding to previous calls has drained them of men, full credit for any excess they may have furnished,

and by charging those townships which have heretofore furnished few or no volunteers, with their whole deficiency. By this plan the burdens of the war will be equally distributed in every locality.

There are good grounds for believing that this is the last requisition that will be made upon the loyal States for troops. The rebellion already staggers, death-struck, to its fall. Three-quarters of the vast area over which, when the war commenced, the treacherous and perjured despotism of Slavery stretched its haughty sceptre, is already rescued from the usurped dominion. Of the twenty millions North and South that were counted on to maintain the cause and uphold the banner of the traitor chiefs, not six millions now adhere to their desperate fortune. One year ago my predecessor was compelled to refer to "a succession of disasters" which had attended our arms, and the "gloom that enshrouded our distracted country." Faith in our final triumph seemed sinking in many a patriot heart; the sympathizer with the accursed rebellion was bold and jubilant, and sheltering himself under the very entablatures of the Temple of Liberty,

"Hung hissing at the nobler men below."

It is my glad privilege to congratulate you upon the succession of glorious victories that have dispelled all gloom, and banished every lingering doubt of the fast approaching result in the total overthrow of the base conspiracy against Constitutional Liberty. The delusive cry of "Peace" is no longer heard, words of sympathy die on the lips, for the handwriting of doom is upon the sky, and the very hours of Treason are numbered, and the death gurgle is in its throat. Unshaken faith and unmingled joy fill all loyal breasts, and not an emotion of sorrow touches a single heart, that Slavery, the foul nursing-mother of all this woe, must share the fate of her offspring, and is even now writhing in the throes of dissolution.

"Keen are her pangs, but keener far to feel,
She nursed the pinion that impelled the steel.

Her history and fate are another lesson in proof of the great truth, that "behind Treachery is Ruin, and above man is the everlasting God."

While she was contented with her own under the Constitution, guarded by millions who loathed her, she was secure as if throned in justice and right. A large portion of the people of the Free States were in their generosity, and love of harmony, willing to give her even more than the pound of flesh nominated in the bond. But when it was known that in her stealthy advances she was seeking the heart's blood of the Government, her most chivalrous defenders faltered. And when the old flag of our Union went down on the battered walls of a national fortress, under the fire of stolen national guns, turned against a gallant handful of national defenders, starving for the food that national vessels were wafting in sight, then in the united shout of twenty millions of indignant freemen from Eastern to Western ocean, "deep calling unto deep," her knell was heard. Party spirit and party prejudices were buried and forgotten in the all absorbing patriotism of the American people, and if they have since revived, it has been only for consignment to a more lasting rest, until our country is saved. And among the more than half a million of freemen who are doing battle to-day in the holiest cause that ever stained a sword, Democrat and Republican stand shoulder to shoulder, camp side by side, knowing only a common cause and a common enemy. It is a sublime lesson to teach the world. It is a glad and useful one for us all, and when this trial shall have ended, in the bright career of glory that awaits us, no man of this generation can ever forget that in the breast of a political opponent the heart swells as fervently with patriotic love as in his own. And God grant that out of this bloody ordeal may come another spectacle for the admiration of all nations, that though brothers have joined in deadly conflict on the field of battle, section been arrayed

against section for destruction, yet when the contest is closed in the removal of its incitements and the sure triumph of the Right, the old affection may return in overwhelming tide, and through the prudence, wisdom and magnanimity of our national councils, the old bond of Union may be strengthened with triple bands.

The way is made plain by the President of the United States in his Proclamation of Amnesty, and let us pray that the olive branch may be accepted, that the flag of our fathers may be hoisted over the grave of Rebellion by hands lately raised against it, and that we may all together renew our oaths of allegiance to its stars and stripes, and pledge afresh our lives and fortunes to the maintenance of its grand old motto, *E Pluribus Unum*, the concentrated wisdom of our ancestors, the mighty spell of our past glories, and the key to a still more brilliant destiny in the illimitable pathway of future Empire.

HENRY A. SWIFT.

St. Paul, January 11, 1864.